

power supply to provide power to the amplifier. The amplifier is located in the same room as the speakers and remote from the signal source and power supply. The amplifier is connected to the signal source and power supply by means of a category 5 four pair twisted cable which provides, in respective conductors of the twisted pairs, right channel audio signals from the signal source to the amplifier, left channel audio from the signal source to the amplifier and DC power from the power supplier to the amplifier.

None of the references, alone or in combination, discloses use of category 5 four pair twisted cable which carries signals sources to amplifiers in a stereo system and DC power from the power supply to the amplifier.

The Lloyd article describes a home entertainment system in which receivers are situated in each room and plug into a standard hi-fi system. As stated in the article, the system is designed to "...avoid laying bulky speaker cables throughout a house and pumping high-voltage currents across them from a centralized hi-fi system. Instead we send unamplified signals across the home on "balanced" cables, which avoids picking up interference from other household devices along the way."

Contrary to the statement in the action, there is no disclosure or suggestion in the Lloyd article that the amplifier is located in a room remote from the power supply. Indeed, the Gold article entitled "Linn Knekt Multi-Room System", cited by the examiner indicates that the system uses four twisted pairs two of which carry balanced audio and two carry bi-directional control signals. As such, applicant submits that the referenced system does not disclose twisted cable carrying a power supply signal. In fact, the Lloyd article suggests to the contrary noting

that the use of unamplified signals "avoids picking up interference from other household devices along the way." As is apparent, a power supply signal could provide interference.

The Wickelgren article discusses the firewire electronic bus used with personal computer systems. The standard cable uses two twisted pairs and a pair of power wires. The power wires do not comprise a twisted pair. Moreover, as noted on page 22, the standard cables "should stretch no more than 4.5 meters between nodes."

In contrast to the cited references, the invention defined by claim 1 is based on the realization that both stereo audio signals and appropriate power signals can be transmitted simultaneously through a category 5 four twisted pair cable in a distributed stereo audio system. This realization enables such distributed stereo audio systems to be commercially viable since the category 5 cable is readily available and requires no special hardware or software terminators. The invention is not obvious in that it would not generally be expected to be suitable because the high bandwidth twisted pairs are not expected to be able to carry power signals and if they were expected to be able to cope with power signals, the expectation is that they would cause interference in the accompanying, unshielded signal carrying pairs. It is surprising and inventive that this has turned out to be so in that the cable has proven to be highly suitable for this unexpected purpose.

Because the Wickelgren article does not discuss use of a twisted pair for providing a power supply signal, combining it with the Lloyd article would not result in the claimed invention. Moreover, the combination is improper. The Lloyd article discusses a system in which transmitters and receivers are located in different rooms throughout a house.

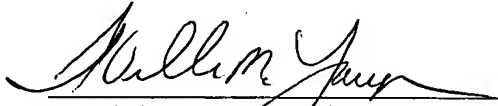
The Wickelgren article discloses interconnecting devices that are no more than 4.5 meters between one another. Indeed, the devices are intended to be located in close proximity to one another as part of a computer system as illustrated on page 20. As such, the references are not properly combined. Moreover, the Lloyd article teaches away from transmitting power in its cable so that one skilled in the art would not consider the teachings of Wickelgren to be relevant for this reason as well.

For the above reasons, independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-19 are believed allowable and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Attached hereto is a certified copy of the priority document, P08621.

Filed herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement including recently discovered prior art and other materials. Some of the materials are undated and is not apparent that they are prior art to the claimed system. The cited references are otherwise no more than cumulative with respect to the references previously cited herein.

Respectfully submitted,


F. William McLaughlin
Reg. No. 32,273

Dated: November 22, 2002

WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ,
CLARK & MORTIMER
500 West Madison Street, Suite 3800
Chicago, Illinois 60661-2511
Telephone: (312) 876-1800